

The Shepherd's Heart

Patience

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"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Hebrews 10:36). Patience is a virtue that shines in heaven's own light. Patience is an ingredient of love. Love waits to begin; not in a hurry; calm; ready to do its work when the summons comes, but meantime wearing the ornament of meek and quiet spirit. Love [in patience] suffers long and beareth all things.

Patience is allied with faith and hope. The next chapter, after our next, gives a roll call of the heroes of faith. It is written of Moses that he endured, as seeing Him Who is invisible." Endurance suggests patience, and patience suggests hope. But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Romans 8:25). "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

George Mueller (1805-1898), the great man of faith and prayer in England and founder of orphanages to care for 10,000+ homeless youth, had this to say about patience: "You need never to take a step in the dark. If you do, you are sure to make a mistake. Wait, wait, wait 'til you have light. Remember that as the Lord Jesus is Counsellor to the Church of God, He will be in your particular case Counsellor and Guide, and will direct you. And if you patiently wait, expectantly wait, you will find that the waiting is not in vain, and that the Lord will prove Himself a Counsellor, both wise and true."

Holy Cross Academy Catholic Schools: Growing and Expanding

(Sept. 21) As experienced across the nation, Catholic Schools have experienced a steady decline in enrollment. Holy Cross Academy Catholic Schools have faced 17 years of decline but as of the 2014/2015 that trend has ended! After almost two decades of a loss of students, an attrition rate of 135 students on average each year, Holy Cross Academy Catholic Elementary Schools have stabilized without a loss of students and a gain in the number of students attending one of the ten Catholic Preschool & Elementary Schools in Stark County. St. Louis, in particular has experienced stabilization in their elementary school and enrollment growth in their preschool.

A number of factors have contributed to this stabilization such as new marketing campaigns, community outreach, and new programming, as well as renovation at several of the HCA schools. This year, HCA has begun a Drama Club for students in K-5th grade. Drama Clubs are offered at 9 of the 10 schools, students work on productions and learn about theatre once a week, for an hour and a half, after school for 7 weeks. The HCA Drama Club culminates with an all school production at the Canton Palace Theatre on October 27. In the first year, over 145 students are participating in Drama Club! St. Louis is offering an enhanced Band Program.

Many times in life we rush into this or that only to discover that our impatience has caused us much trouble and pain. We move without heavenly counsel and the resultant experience is rife with terrible consequences. "Be patient," said a

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Students are offered semi-private lessons during the day, full band practice sessions once a week and will get to participate in public performances. Accomplished student musicians in Holy Cross Academy Catholic Schools have been invited to play with the Central Catholic and St. Thomas Aquinas High School marching bands, ensembles and high school drama performances. Others have been selected to play in the Canton Youth Symphony Orchestra. And, there are opportunities at schools to play in school and parish music ministries. Another program capturing the interest of HCA families, is the Stark County Catholic Schools Middle Speech & Debate Team. This summer, HCA students were able to participate in a one week camp to learn public speaking skills, research and organizational tactics, as well as character development and dramatic and humorous interpretation. After a week of learning, students performed a talent showcase for family and friends by delivering a speech and participating in a mini-debate. The camp was so positively received that the program is being extended into the school year. Beginning in November, all ten schools will get to see demonstrations of competitive Speech & Debate. From December-February students in grades 5-8 will be able to participate on a Speech & Debate team that will meet weekly and will include talent showcases as well as opportunity to formally compete. Again this summer, St. Louis has expanded their art mural on the walls of the school. The graduating class was able to communicate a message to younger generations with their mural addition and a parent volunteer added scenes to the mural on the 1st floor. This tradition of family led art enriching the school has become a popular practice at St. Louis and reflects the genuine appreciation the school has for the talents of their students.

These Arts Programs are a wonderful addition to the strong Athletic Programs offered to Holy Cross Academy Catholic School students. Many students from St. Louis are participating in fall sports with Holy Cross Academy Catholic Schools. Students are playing flag football in grades 1-4, tackle football in grade 5, golf in 5th grade, running cross country in 5th grade, playing volleyball in grades 3-5 and are participating in cheerleading in grades

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